



# House Select Committee on Homeland Security **Democrats**

**JIM TURNER, Ranking Member**

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## **WE MUST PROTECT *ALL* OF AMERICA**

“Our current spending on homeland security is haphazard, unfocused and based on past events, with little regard for the threats and vulnerabilities we face today, and will face in the future,” stated Congressman Jim Turner, Ranking Member of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security.

“We must train and equip local first responders with the essential capabilities needed to prevent and respond to terrorist attacks. These expanded capabilities must be determined in a bottom-up process involving local responders and must be based on the understanding of the likely threats and vulnerabilities that exist in our communities.”

“To base preparedness funding exclusively on a snapshot of the threat faced by a community or region applying for the grant, as proposed by the majority, ignores the reality that threat information is often vague, inconsistent and ever-changing.”

Turner made his remarks at a full committee hearing of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security on first responder legislation. A bill presented by Chairman Cox, H.R. 3266, as well as the PREPARE Act, H.R. 3158, co-sponsored by 144 Democratic Members of the House, were discussed.

“We have a security gap in this country. We need to define ‘essential capabilities’ based on our best understanding of threats and vulnerabilities, with the realization that threats vary from community to community at any given time.”

“The PREPARE Act seeks to do just that. It is designed to protect all of America, instead of just some of it.”

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